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method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for preventing the destruction of functional tissue, to combat said diseases to a mammalian organism in need of such combating.

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17. (Twice Amended) A method for combating tumors and neoplasms or tumor metastases which are caused by increased plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for preventing the destruction of functional tissue, to combat said tumors and neoplasms or tumor metastases to a mammalian organism in need of such combating.

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Please add the following new claims 28 and 29:

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--28. A method for preventing the destruction of functional tissue associated with diseases selected from the group consisting of pulmonary emphysema, acute respiratory distress syndrome, shock lung, cystic fibrosis (mucoviscidosis), chronic bronchitis, glomerulonephritis and rheumatoid arthritis, which are caused by increased leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic

acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for preventing the destruction of functional tissue, to a mammalian organism in need of such prevention.

29. A method for preventing the destruction of functional tissue associated with tumors and neoplasms or tumor metastases which are caused by increased plasmin activity or can be treated by the inhibition of normal leucocytic elastase or plasmin activity, said method comprising administering boswellic acid, a physiologically acceptable salt, a derivative, a salt of the derivative, a plant extract containing boswellic acid, or combinations thereof, in an amount effective for preventing the destruction of functional tissue, to a mammalian organism in need of such prevention.--

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